

Vocabulary

Chapter 8 – Public Participation

This chapter reviews the much-discussed lack of voter turnout and other forms of political participation in the United States, and concludes that individual Americans may not be at fault for their seeming nonparticipation but that other factors may be at work. After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. Explain why the text believes that the description, the analysis, and the proposed remedy for low voter turnout rates in this country are off base.
2. Compare the way turnout statistics are tabulated for this country and for other countries, and explain the significance of these differences.
3. Describe how the control of elections has shifted from the states to the federal government, and explain what effects this shift has had on blacks, women, and youths.
4. State both sides of the debate over whether voter turnout has declined over the past century, and describe those factors that tend to hold down voter turnout in this country.
5. List and explain Nie and Verba's four categories of political participation.
6. Discuss those factors that appear to be associated with high or low political participation.
7. Compare participation rates in various forms of political activity here and in other countries.

Chapter 8 – Political Participation

activists

white primary

Bowling Alone

apathy

Australian ballot/ secret ballot

ballots

electorate

federalism

get-out-the-vote-drives

grass roots

“net” roots

the base

grandfather clause

literacy test

Motor-Voter bill

party

political participation

poll tax

Progressive Era

15th Amendment

17th Amendment

19th Amendment

26th Amendment

registration

registered voters

suffrage/ franchise

voter registration

voter turnout

voting age population (VAP)

Vocabulary

Chapter 9 – Political Parties

This chapter provides a fairly detailed exploration of one unique aspect of American politics: the two-party system that has evolved in the United States. After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. Define the term *political party* and contrast the structures of the European and American parties, paying particular attention to the federal structure of the American system and the concept of party identification.
2. Trace the development of the party system through its four periods, and offer reasons that parties have been in decline since the New Deal period.
3. Describe the structure of a major party and distinguish powerful from powerless party organs.
4. Define *intraparty democracy* and state its effect on the last few Democratic nominating conventions in the last few contests. Evaluate the relative strengths of state party bosses in recent years, and discuss the increasing importance of primaries in relation to the boss system at conventions.
5. Describe the machine, discuss its functions, and trace its decline. Contrast its structure with that of ideological and reform parties.
6. Offer two explanations for the persistence of the two-party system. Explain why minor parties form, and discuss different kinds of parties. Analyze why they are so rarely successful.
7. Describe some of the issue differences between delegates at Democratic and Republican conventions, and indicate whether there are major differences between the parties. Compare these differences with those between members of the rank and file voters.

plurality electoral system
political party primary elections
proportional representation
sectionalism
single member district
solidary incentive
split ticket

caucuses (party caucuses)
coalitions
Congressional campaign committee
critical or realignment period / realignment
elections
divided government
economic protest parties
factional parties/ "splinter" parties
general elections
ideological party
independents
loyal opposition
majority electoral system

minor parties/ third parties
mugwups / progressives
national chairman
national committee (e.g., Republican National Committee, "RNC")
national conventions (e.g., Democratic National Conventions)
New Deal Coalition
one-interest parties
over-ride
partisan/ partisanship
personal following
unified government
veto
winner-take-all election
Blue Dog Democrats
fiscal conservatives
Big Tent parties
straight ticket
superdelegates
two-party system

Vocabulary Chapter 10 – Elections and Campaigns

This chapter takes you on a cook's tour of some of the scholarly examinations, the common folklore, and the amazing intricacies of America's most enduring and exciting political institution, the election. Major topics include, but are not limited to, the debate over just how democratic they are (given a very low voter turnout), the new personalistic nature of campaigning in the latter part of the twentieth century, the role that money plays in determining outcomes, the role of special interest groups, so-called realigning elections, and the elements of successful coalition building by Democrats and Republicans. After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. Explain why elections in the United States are both more democratic and less democratic than those of other countries.
2. Demonstrate the differences between the party-oriented campaigns of the nineteenth century and the candidate-oriented ones of today, explaining the major elements of a successful campaign for office today.
3. Discuss how important campaign funding is to election outcomes, what the major sources of such funding are under current law, and how successful reform legislation has been in purifying U.S. elections of improper monetary influences.
4. Discuss the partisan effects of campaigns, or why the party with the most registered voters does not always win the election.
5. Define the term *realigning election* and discuss the major examples of such elections in the past, as well as recent debates over whether realignment is again underway.
6. Describe what the Democrats and the Republicans, respectively, must do to put together a successful national coalition to achieve political power in any election.
7. Outline the major arguments on either side of the question of whether elections result in major changes in public policy in the United States.

Big Three/ networks

blanket primary

candidates

caucus (electoral)

census

Congressional committees

Congressional districts

constituents

closed primary

clothespin vote

coattails

election day

political action committee (PAC)

political pundits

position issue

primary election

prospective voting

minimum qualifications/

reapportionment

redistricting

retrospective voting

runoff election

silent primary

verbal slip

sophomore surge

spot

talking heads

valence issue

visuals

elections continued

general election

gerrymandering

incumbent

independent expenditures

majority minority districts

malapportionment

mid-term election/ off-year election

national convention

open primary

Vocabulary

Chapter 11 – Interest Groups

Chapter Focus Chapter 9: Interest Groups

The purpose of this chapter is to survey the wide variety of interest groups or lobbies that operate in the United States and to assess the effect they have on the political system of the country. After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. Explain why the characteristics of American society and government encourage a multiplicity of interest groups, and compare the American and British experiences in this regard.
2. Describe the historical conditions under which interest groups are likely to form, and specify the kinds of organizations Americans are most likely to join.
3. Describe relations between leaders and rank-and-file members of groups, including why the sentiments of members may not determine the actions of leaders.
4. Describe several methods that interest groups use to formulate and carry out their political objectives, especially the lobbying techniques used to gain public support. Explain why courts have become an important forum for public interest groups.
5. List the laws regulating conflict of interest, and describe the problems involved with "revolving door" government employment. Describe the provisions of the 1978 conflict-of-interest law. Explain the suggestions that have been made for stricter laws. Describe the balance between the First Amendment's freedom of expression and the need to prevent corruption in the political system

AFL-CIO
bias
direct mail solicitation
environmental movement
feminist movement
foundations
foundation grants
grassroots
ideological interest group
identity politics
incentive
insider strategy
interest group politics
public interest law firms
purposive incentive
ratings
revolving door

labor unions
lobby/ lobbyists
K Street
material incentives
social movement
solidary incentive
think tanks
AARP
NAACP
NOW
Chamber of Commerce
trade associations

outsider strategy
PACs
political cue

public interest lobby

Chapter 12 – Media

In this chapter you examine the historical evolution and current status of relations between the government and the news media--how the media affect government and politics and how government seeks to affect the media.

After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. Describe the evolution of journalism in American political history, and describe the differences between the party press and the mass media of today.
2. Demonstrate how the characteristics of the electronic media have affected the actions of public officials and candidates for national office.
3. Describe the effect of the pattern of ownership and control of the media on the dissemination of news, and show how wire services and television networks have affected national news coverage. Discuss the influence of the national press.
4. Describe the rules that govern the media, and contrast the regulation of electronic and print media. Describe the effect of libel laws on freedom of the press and of government rules on broadcasters.
5. Assess the effect of the media on politics, and discuss why it is difficult to find evidence that can be used to make a meaningful and accurate assessment. Explain why the executive branch probably benefits at the expense of Congress.
6. Describe the adversarial press and how reporters use their sources. Describe how an administration can develop tactics to use against the adversarial press.

adversarial press

background/ "on background"

Big Three

blogs/ bloggers

blogosphere

bully pulpit

broadcast journalism

electronic media

equal time rule

facebook

feeding frenzy

Federal Communication Commission (FCC)

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

investigative journalism

libel

liberal press

mass media

national media

news wires/ new services (Associated Press, Reuters)

prior restraint

public service

Pentagon Papers

Pew Research Center
press secretary
routine stories
spin
talk radio
twitter
Washington Press Corps
Watergate
“ “ga